

## ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING.

AUGUST 28th, 1912.

Mr. W. W. Froggatt, F.L.S., President, in the Chair.

Messrs. GILBERT M. GOLDFINCH, Mosman; ALBERT H. W. PEICK, Sydney; and Rev. WALTER W. WATTS, Gladesville, were elected Ordinary Members of the Society.

On the motion of Mr. David G. Stead, who reported the serious illness of Dr. James C. Cox, an active Member and some time President of the Society in its early days, it was resolved that a message of sympathy from the Members present should be conveyed to him by letter.

The Donations and Exchanges received since the previous Monthly Meeting (31st July, 1912). amounting to 5 Vols., 55 Parts or Nos., 30 Bulletins, 5 Reports, and 11 Pamphlets, received from 47 Societies and two Individuals, were laid upon the table.

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 NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Mr. Steel exhibited an acorn from a tree of *Quercus pedunculata*, growing in the Domain, Sydney, having each cotyledon subdivided symmetrically into two unequal-sized lobes, thus forming four distinct cotyledons. This was the only abnormal example noticed amongst many hundreds examined.

Mr. D. G. Stead exhibited photographs of a large Southern Ribbon-Fish, *Trachypterus jacksonensis* (Ramsay), which had been taken during the month at Milton, N.S.W. The fish measured over all 2,195 mm. (7ft. 2½ inches) in length, but as the end of the finely-tapering tail had been broken off, it was probably about 250 mm. longer, at capture. The fol-

lowing additional measurements are given: height of head 254 mm.; diameter of eye, 60 mm.; height of body at ventral insertion, 260 mm.; greatest thickness, 57 mm. The specimen was a full-roed female. This great Ribbon-Fish was taken under unique circumstances, from a fisherman's point of view, having been hooked in the locality mentioned, off Banister's Point, while fishing for Snapper, and with a Squid (*Sepioteuthis*) bait. The first recorded example of this species was described in the Society's Proceedings (Vol. v., 1880-1881), and was obtained during 1880, at Manly Beach, where it had been speared.

Mr. A. R. McCulloch exhibited a male specimen of the Common Water Rat, *Hydromys chrysogaster*, var. *leucogaster*, killed by a dog, in the Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Presented to the Australian Museum by Mr. J. H. Maiden, F.L.S.

On behalf of Mr. A. B. Walkom, Mr. Dun exhibited specimens of Glendonites from the upper beds of the Lower Marine Series (Permo-Carboniferous) of Harper's Hill, Allandale.

Dr. E. A. D'Ombraïn showed the unidentified hard kernels of the fruits of two North Queensland trees, one growing in the open forest, the other in the scrub, which had been forwarded to him by Mr. W. McLennan, from Cape York, as furnishing part of the dietary of the Great Black Palm Cockatoo (*Microglossus aterrimus* Gmelin).

Dr. J. B. Cleland showed *Cysticercus tenuicollis* and *Echinococcus veterinorum* from sheep, illustrative of the way in which the perpetuation of the species is provided for during the eating of such cysts by dogs. In *C. tenuicollis*, only one head of a future tapeworm (*T. marginata*) is found in each cyst. It is of considerable size, and would be easily crushed by the teeth of a dog, if it were not for the fact that the cyst hangs dependent from the liver or abdominal organs of the host. The dog, in eating these, after hasty chewing, swallows part of the organ which, as it descends, draws after it the dependent cyst which had been hanging outside the dog's mouth. In the *Echinococcus*, numerous scolices, representing immature heads, cover the inside

of the walls of the (non-sterile) cysts; however many may be crushed by the dog's teeth, numerous others escape to perpetuate the species.

Mr. G. A. Waterhouse exhibited specimens of *Euplœa corinna* Macleay, from Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Cape York, and Port Darwin. These demonstrated that this species is not subject to geographical variation in Australia. At Cape York, occasional aberrations occur, in which the white spots are reduced in size; more rarely some of the white spots are absent. Miskin described two such aberrations(♂♀) under the name *Euplœa euclus*; but the present exhibit not only showed examples even more divergent from typical *corinna* than Miskin's specimens, but also intergrades between *E. corinna* and *E. euclus*. In a note upon the exhibit Mr. Waterhouse said: "Dr. K. Jordan has kindly examined, for me, Felder's types of this genus in the Tring Museum. He has written to me that *Euplœa angasi* Felder, is identical with *E. corinna*: the type of *E. angasi* shows the single brand in the ♂. The second of Felder's species recorded from Australia is *E. lewini*, which is without a brand in the ♂. Dr. Jordan considers that the locality given is incorrect, and with this view I quite concur; no *Euplœa* known from Australia agrees with the description of *E. lewini*." *E. boisduvali* Lucas, is probably another synonym.

Mr. E. Cheel exhibited the following interesting species of grasses, from the National Herbarium collection, three of which are now naturalised in this State, and have not previously been recorded, so far as can be ascertained—*Paspalum setaceum* Michx.; Brockhurst, Macksville, Namibucca River(H. J. Lane; February, 1912). *Ehrharta calycina* Sm., var. *versicolor* Stapf; Richmond (C. T. Musson; August, 1910); and Botany Swamps (W. F. Blakely; June, 1912). *Digitaria debilis* Willd.; Centennial Park (A. A. Hamilton; March, 1905); Paddington and Watson's Bay (W. F. Blakely; February and June, 1912); Hawkesbury River (Dr. J. B. Cleland; May, 1912). *Digitaria tenuiflora* Beauv., from a number of additional specific localities: Government House lawn(J. H. Camfield); Richmond(W. M. Carne and C. T. Musson);

Hawkesbury River(Dr. J. B. Cleland); and Rose Bay(W. F. Blakely). In Bentham's Fl. Aust.(vii., p.461), this species is described under the name *Paspalum brevifolium* Flügge; and *Panicum tenuiflorum* R.Br., Prodr.p.193, is quoted as a synonym. It is interesting to note that Bentham included this species under *Panicum*(Sect. *Digitaria*) in Journ. Linn. Soc.(Bot.), Vol. xix., p.41(1881), about three years after the last volume of the Flora Australiensis was published. The species evidently has a wide range, as it is included by Stapf in the Flora Capensis(vii.,p.380), under the name *Digitaria tenuiflora* Beauv. Specimens of the common Summer Grass, *Digitaria sanguinalis* Scop.,(*Panicum sanguinale* Linn.) were also shown for comparison with the closely allied *D. debilis*.

Mr. A. A. Hamilton showed a grass, from the Hawkesbury River district, which seemed to be an undescribed species; a description has been prepared, which, together with some field and other notes, will form the subject of a further communication. Also, from the National Herbarium, Sydney, a specimen of *Erigeron bonariensis* Linn., not previously recorded from Australia. In a note on *Erigeron linifolius* Willd., a common weed known vernacularly as "Cobblers' Pegs," Bentham, in the Fl. Austr.(iii., p.496) says that "some of the above enumerated specimens may belong to *E. albidus* A. Gray," which is synonymous with *E. bonariensis* Linn., according to the Index Kewensis. This proves to be the case, as there are examples in the National Herbarium from a number of localities in New South Wales. A brief description is given in Grisebach's Fl. Brit. West Indies. *E. bonariensis* differs from *E. linifolius* in having smaller flower-heads, the ligula of the ray florets more developed, involucre bracts glabrous or nearly so, ray florets dark blue, and in its habit generally. Specimens of *E. canadensis* Linn., *E. linifolius* Willd., together with a specimen of *E. bonariensis* Linn., from the Argentine, collected by Dr. Otto Buchtien, were exhibited for comparison.

Mr. Fred Turner exhibited two important indigenous grasses, and nine interesting Cyperaceous plants from the Northern Ter-

ritory. They comprised — GRAMINEÆ: *Anthistiria membranacea* Lindl., (syn. *Iseilema mitchellii* Anders.), popularly known as "red Gulf grass," "Landsborough grass," "Barcoo grass," and "Flinders grass"; it is figured and described in Turner's "Australian Grasses" (Vol. i., p.11): *Panicum decompositum* R.Br., the "Australian Millet," figured and described in Turner's "Australian Grasses" (Vol. i., p.36). Mr. Turner figured and described both these grasses, under instructions from the Government of Western Australia, for the information of the stockowners in the western portion of the continent. CYPERACEÆ: *Cyperus concinnus* R.Br., probably a new record for this species; *C. difformis* Linn., probably a new record for this species; *C. fulvus* R.Br., probably a new record for this species; *C. pygmæus* Rottb.; *C. rotundus* Linn.; *C. squarrosus* Linn.; *Fimbristylis velata* R.Br.; *Heleocharis acuta* R.Br., probably a new record for this species; *Scirpus setaceus* Linn., probably a new record for this species.

Mr. Froggatt exhibited living specimens of a large Mealy Bug (*Monophlebus crawfordi* Mask.) sent to him from South Australia, to show the large quantity of white, mealy wool produced by this species. He showed also examples of the trap-door nests of three unidentified spiders, received from Mr. Sidney W. Jackson, and collected by him near Collarenebri, N.S.W., and on the Blackall Range, Queensland.